

## Message Text

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NESCO--FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DALLEY, IO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW

SUMMARY: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE DALLEY AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO GABRIEL GUERRA-MONDRAGON MET WITH UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS NAJMAN, AND DIRECTOR OF UNESCO WASHINGTON OFFICE HERSCHELLE CHALLENGER FOR AN HOUR AT THE WALDORF TOWERS ON FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 26. DURING DISCUSSION, WHICH CENTERED LARGELY ON PERSONNEL ISSUES, M'BOW STATED THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO FILL VACANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL POST BUT SIDESTEPED SETTING A TIMETABLE FOR SUCH AN APPOINTMENT. HE BLUNTLY INDICATED THAT IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, UNLIKE THE UN SECRETARIAT, POSITIONS ARE NOT DESIGNATED BY NATIONALITY AND THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXPECT TO HAVE AN AMERICAN NAMED TO REPLACE FOBES. HE TRIED AGAIN  
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TO INTEREST US IN THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL POSITIONS IN ADMINISTRATION AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. M'BOW REPEATED HIS COMMITMENT TO CORRECT THE UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF U.S. CITIZENS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND PROMISED TO REPORT BACK TO DALLEY ON PENDING CANDIDACY OF CARL SALANS FOR POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS.

TOUCHING ON FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ISSUES, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ADMITTED A FAILURE TO ACHIEVE

CONSENSUS ON A DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE USES OF THE MEDIA AND INDICATED THAT ISSUE OF DECLARATION SHOULD PERHAPS BE POSTPONED UNTIL HIS WISEMEN'S COMMISSION HAS HAD TIME TO STUDY THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS. HE URGED US TO COMMUNICATE OUR CONCERNS ON THE MEDIA ISSUE TO THE AFRICANS SO THAT THERE MIGHT BE SUPPORT FOR DEFERRING THE ISSUE AT THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. M'BOW IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. IN JULY. HE SOUGHT ASSURANCE THAT HIS VISIT WOULD NOT COMPLICATE EFFORT TO OBTAIN FUNDING OF U.S. DUES ARREARAGE TO UNESCO, THEN EXPRESSED HIS GREAT INTEREST IN MEETING THOSE BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO. END SUMMARY

1. DALLEY BEGAN CONVERSATION BY WELCOMING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE U.S. AND EXPRESSING THE DEPARTMENT'S GREAT INTEREST IN DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN EARLY JULY. M'BOW ASKED WHETHER HIS VISIT IN JULY WAS BADLY TIMED. GUERRA-MONDRAGON AND DALLEY RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN PLANNING EVENTS AND APPOINTMENTS OVER THE INDEPENDENCE HOLIDAY PERIOD; FOR THIS REASON WE HAD URGED CONSIDERATION OF ANOTHER TIME FOR THE VISIT. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL RESPONDED THAT HIS SCHEDULE DID NOT PERMIT A VISIT AT ANY OTHER TIME BEFORE  
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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, BUT HIS QUESTION WAS MOTIVATED BY INDICATIONS HE HAD RECEIVED THAT HIS VISIT MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PENDING REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF THE ARREARAGE OF UNITED STATES DUES TO UNESCO. HE HAD HEARD THAT IT WAS BETTER FOR HIM NOT TO COME BECAUSE HIS VISIT MIGHT GENERATE ATTENTION TO ISSUES THAT WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT UPON THE CONGRESS. DALLEY RESPONDED THAT THE INVITATION WAS ISSUED WITH THE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD, BY HIS VISIT, ASSIST THE CREATION OF A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF UNESCO IN THE ADMINISTRATION, IN THE U.S. CONGRESS AND IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND THAT WE LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN UNESCO.

2. DALLEY RECALLED CONVERSATION WITH M'BOW IN FEBRUARY ABOUT PLACEMENT OF AMERICAN AT HIGH LEVEL IN UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND ASKED M'BOW IF HIS THINKING HAD CRYSTALLIZED CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT THAT HE WAS CONTEMPLATING AT THE TIME. DALLEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION THAT WAS DESCRIBED IN FEBRUARY HAD BEEN WEAKENED SUBSTANTIALLY BY

TRANSFER OF THE BUDGET FUNCTION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE. M'BOW MINIMIZED THE IMPACT OF THIS TRANSFER AND

REPEATED HIS ASSERTION THAT THE NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION POSITION WOULD OFFER A STRONG OPPORTUNITY FOR INFLUENCE IN THE SECRETARIAT. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO DETAIL THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAD HAD WITH FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL JACK FOBES ALLEGING THAT FOBES, ALONG WITH OTHER AMERICANS, HAD BEEN DISLOYAL TO HIM. DALLEY INDICATED SURPRISE AT THIS ASSERTION, STATING THAT IN HIS EXPERIENCE U.S. CITIZENS IN INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATS TOOK SERIOUSLY THEIR ROLE AS INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS AND WERE NOT PRONE TO WORK TOGETHER AS AMERICANS FOR ANY NATIONAL PURPOSE. HE HOPED THAT THIS

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EXPERIENCE HAD NOT LED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO SUSPECT THE LOYALTY OF THE U.S. CITIZENS IN THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT. M'BOW HASTENED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO ACCUSE ALL OF THE AMERICANS IN THE SECRETARIAT OF WORKING IN COLLUSION WITH JACK FOBES, BUT THERE HAD BEEN A COUPLE OF PEOPLE, WHOSE IDENTITY HE KNEW, WHO HE FELT HAD WORKED WITH FOBES TO UNDERMINE M'BOW'S INFLUENCE IN THE ORGANIZATION.

3. DALLEY PRESSED M'BOW FOR THE TIMETABLE FOR THE NAMING OF A NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL BUT DID NOT GET A DIRECT ANSWER. M'BOW STATED THAT HE WILL BE NAMING A NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO HAS HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE AND WHO CAN WORK WITH HIM ALMOST AS AN ALTER EGO. HE MUST BE ABLE TO HELP HIM WITH THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS THAT ARE CONSUMING HIS TIME AND WEARING HIM DOWN. HE STATED THAT IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, UNLIKE THE UN SECRETARIAT, JOBS ARE NOT DESIGNATED FOR CERTAIN NATIONALS AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXPECT THE NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL TO BE AN AMERICAN BECAUSE FOBES HAD HELD THE POSITION. DALLEY ASSURED HIM THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT WANT THE POSITION BY MATTER OF RIGHT BUT FELT STRONGLY THAT FILLING THIS POSITION WITH A U.S. CITIZEN WAS IN THE INTEREST OF UNESCO BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE U.S. HAS HISTORICALLY PLAYED IN THE ORGANIZATION. WE ARE PREPARED TO SUBMIT TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL A LIST OF STRONG CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION THAT WILL HAVE MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A STRONG CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS PROGRAM OF THE ORGANIZATION. DALLEY EXPLAINED THAT THE NAMING OF AN AMERICAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD ASSIST IN BUILDING A MORE POSITIVE IMAGE OF UNESCO IN THE CONGRESS AND COULD POSITIVELY INFLUENCE THE OBTAINING OF PAYMENT OF THE DUES

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ARREARAGE BECAUSE CONGRESS WAS CONTINUALLY CONCERNED WITH THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IF A U.S. CITIZEN HELD THE NUMBER

TWO POSITION IN UNESCO IT WOULD HELP IMMEASURABLY IN GAINING THE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANIZATION. THIS WAS NOT A REFLECTION OF LACK OF FAITH IN THE ABILITIES OF OTHER NATIONALS TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNESCO, BUT A MATTER OF GREATER IDENTIFICATION WITH AN ORGANIZATION IN WHICH THERE WAS A PERCEPTION OF U.S. INFLUENCE. M'BOW RESPONDED BY EXPLAINING THAT HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM MANY COUNTRIES WHO FELT THEY WERE UNDER-REPRESENTED AND FROM SOME WHO FELT THE U.S. SHOULD BE PENALIZED BECAUSE OF ITS NON-PAYMENT OF DUES BY NOT HAVING ITS CITIZENS NAMED TO POSITIONS UNTIL IT WAS CURRENT IN ITS PAYMENT. HE HAD RESISTED SUCH PRESSURES, HE ASSERTED, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. DALLEY PROMISED TO SEND M'BOW A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR HIS CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO. M'BOW STATED THAT HE RECOGNIZES THE UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF U.S. CITIZENS IN THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND IS COMMITTED TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS.

4. DALLEY MENTIONED THE PENDING CANDIDACY OF CARL SALANS FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AND REMINDED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT DURING THEIR CONVERSATION IN FEBRUARY HE HAD PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THIS CANDIDACY AND RESPOND TO THE U.S. INTEREST IN HAVING SALANS APPOINTED TO THIS IMPORTANT POSITION. WE HAD HEARD NOTHING SINCE THEN AND WERE WONDERING WHY THE APPOINTMENT HAD NOT BEEN MADE. M'BOW SEEMED NOT TO RECALL UNTIL NAJMAN REMINDED HIM OF THE POSITION AND PRODDED HIM INTO A PROMISE TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND RESPOND TO THE INQUIRY WHEN HE RETURNED TO PARIS. PERMDEL SHOULD CONTACT NAJMAN THIS WEEK CONCERNING THIS PROMISE AND OBTAIN A RESPONSE ON SALANS CANDIDACY.  
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5. M'BOW URGED THAT WE GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL POSITION FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PROVIDE HIM WITH CANDIDATES FOR THIS POSITION AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. HE REPEATED THAT THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES WILL BECOME VACANT IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND ASKED US TO CONSIDER SUBMITTING CANDIDATES FOR THIS POSITION AS WELL. DALLEY REPEATED THAT ALTHOUGH THESE POSITIONS WERE IMPORTANT ONES, WE FELT THAT PARTICULARLY WITH THE BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY MOVED FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION, IT DID NOT CARRY THE KIND OF INFLUENCE ON POLICYMAKING THAT THE UNITED STATES DESIRED TO HAVE IN THE ORGANIZATION. M'BOW SAID THAT MOVING THE BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY

HAD NOT WEAKENED THE ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION AS MUCH AS WE THINK AND URGED US TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE POSITION.

6. TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION, DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW REVIEWED THE WORK OF THE WISEMEN'S COMMISSION TO DATE AND ASSESSED THAT IT HAD ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL IN A SHORT PERIOD. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE STOCKHOLM MEETING WHICH HE FELT HAD PRODUCED A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND HAD DE-ESCALATED THE RHETORIC ON THIS ISSUE. EVEN GEORGE BEEBE, HE SAID, HAD CONDUCTED HIMSELF WITH RESTRAINT. IN RESPONSE TO DALLEY'S EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ESCALATING RHETORIC AND THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE RHETORIC BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL DURING HIS REMARKS AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, M'BOW AGREED THAT IT WAS TIME TO LOWER VOICES AND UNDERTAKE AN OBJECTIVE STUDY OF THE ISSUES. IN THIS REGARD, THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION MIGHT INDICATE THE NEED FOR DELAYING  
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ACTION ON A DECLARATION UNTIL THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IS COMPLETED. DALLEY SAID THIS WAS THE THINKING OF THE USG AND WE HOPED THAT THE IMPORTANT WORK THAT WAS NOW BEING DONE TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE BOTH IN THE COMMISSION AND BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT BE SIDETRACKED BY MORE ARID DEBATE ON A DECLARATION ON THE MEDIA. M'BOW SAID IF THE U.S. WANTED TO PREVENT THIS ISSUE FROM ARISING AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO LOBBY THE MEMBERS OF UNESCO, PARTICULARLY THE AFRICAN STATES, TO CONVINCE THEM THAT DISCUSSION OF THE DECLARATION WAS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE ORGANIZATION AT THIS TIME.

7. DALLEY INFORMED M'BOW THAT HE WOULD BE IN PARIS ON JUNE 9 AND 10 TO MEET WITH THE AFRICAN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS TO TALK ABOUT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO COME BEFORE THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. M'BOW WELCOMED THE IDEA OF THE MEETING AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH DALLEY IN PARIS ON JUNE 9 OR 10. PERMDEL PLEASE CONFIRM APPOINTMENT FOR DALLEY AND HOLLOWAY ON AGREED DATE. VANCE

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